

**STATEMENT BY THE PARTICIPANTS
TO THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) AND RIGHT TO HEALTH
SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ON
FEBRUARY 7-8, 2016 AT JESSE HOUSE HOTEL, LOME, TOGO.**

At the initiative of the **Public Services International (PSI)** and in conjunction with the **National Federation of Public Service Unions of Togo**, a sub-regional seminar on "Public Private Partnership and the Right to Health" was organised from 07 to 08 February 2017 at Jesse House Hotel, in Lomé, TOGO.

In attendance were representatives of all the trade union centers in Togo, sister trade unions from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Chad, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Niger, Guinea Conakry, as well as Togolese civil society organizations and the media.

The main objective of this meeting was to provide a framework for discussion on the concept practice of Public Private Partnership in relation to the right to health care.

The emergence of Public Private Partnership in the 1990s reflects a paradigm shift towards the commodification and privatisation of health, whereas access to affordable quality health care is universally recognised as a fundamental human right.

The meeting sought to achieve, the following objectives, amongst others things:

- to raise awareness of participants on the workings of Public Private Partnership and its impact on health systems;
- to help participants clearly identify their role and responsibility as workers and activists in mobilising around alternatives to PPPs;
- to better understand the on-going Public Private Partnership in the health sector in Togo, and draw lessons from across the sub-region on how to address it, and for sisters and brothers from other countries in the sub-region as well to be better informed in their activities, from the situation in Togo.

Particular attention was paid to the role and responsibility of trade unions and civil society actors including the media, in engaging with the formulation and implementation the on-going PPP being developed at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

After in-depth analysis of the concept of Public Private Partnership, the ins and outs of this concept, its advantages and disadvantages; and in view of experiments of Public Private Partnership implemented in other sectors in Africa and elsewhere, and considering the peculiarity of the health sector and the national context of Togo, participants to this seminar wish to state the following:

1. We reaffirm the right to health, the right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental human right, as provided in Article 34 of the Togolese Constitution of 14th October 1992, and in the relevant provisions of all the international and regional human rights instruments to which our country is a signatory party.
2. We regard the public health sector as a major sector which is critical for achieving the sustainable development goals, and which should thus be given the prominence and priority that this deserves by national governments.
3. We however note with sadness that the health sector is relegated to the background of national priorities, as budget allocated to public health care services keeps declining, with

ensuing consequences such as the dilapidated nature of hospital infrastructures, inadequate facilities, poorly allocated human and financial resources, shady behaviour of some health workers, etc., in Togo and across the sub-region of French-speaking African countries.

We further observe with concern that the Public Private Partnership appears to be seen as a solution by the Togolese government to the problems described above including the management of public health facilities and has made the pilot phase already operational, despite evidence-based conclusions that PPPs don't work.

4. We acknowledge that public-private partnerships in a few cases seem to relatively add value to services provided to the citizens, and to the management and governance policies in place in contractualized public health facilities. Water sector reforms introduced in Senegal, and the performance-based funding policy implemented in Rwanda, can be mentioned as examples. But, not only do these come at great costs, it took workers critical engagement to win the limited gains they could be said to have brought.

5. Taking into account the current state of the health sector and the human right of everyone to health care,

The participants to the Lomé meeting wish to express the following concerns:

- ✓ Public Private Partnerships in general and, in particular the contractualisation format it is taking in Togo are not likely to, guarantee supply and access to quality health care for all
- ✓ It is also the more questionable since the “contractualisation” process cannot be deemed transparent in the absence of reasonable consultation with the social partners, the civil society, and services.

In the light of the foregoing, the participants to the workshop:

6. Express deep concern over the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of such an approach in Togo;

7. Call on the Togolese government to launch a wide-ranging consultation with all stakeholders, including trade unions, civil society organizations and media, and especially the users, in order to ensure an inclusive, participatory and transparent process;

3. Call on the states authorities to organize at the earliest possible date a national forum on this contractualisation process and for debate on Public Private Partnership in Togo.

As far as we are concerned, this forum would have the merit of taking into account everyone's contributions in achieving quality health care in Togo.

Done at Lomé, on 08 February 2017,
Signed,

Trades Unions side,

On behalf of Benin,



Yves Gnélé

On behalf of Mali



Ann Dadoré Koita

On behalf of Tchad



Yengding Nathan BANGAH

On behalf of Burkina



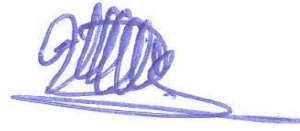
Honorine Kabré

On behalf of Niger



Bouabakar BOUBAOU

On behalf of Togo



Nadou Oloukounlé Lawson

On behalf of Cameroun



Jean Marie NDI

On behalf of DRC



Marie Nianga N'Bayabu

On behalf of Guinea Conakry



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Elimane Diouf

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CNTT



ATC



LCT



ONG-JVE



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